

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1- 4 and 12 - 22 were previously canceled without prejudice pursuant to a restriction requirement.

Please cancel claims 22 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11 as follows:

Claims 1- 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A plate comprising ~~having~~:

a pair of oppositely disposed faces defining an outer face and an inner face;

a plurality of spaced apart spikes projecting from ~~one of said pair of faces~~ said inner face, said spikes being grouped in pairs with at least one spike in each of said pairs is spaced an equal distance from a centerline of said inner face at each corner as compared to the other spike of said pair, and wherein each one of said spikes in each of said pairs are canted slightly toward each other in opposition to one another; and

at least one pair of plate pull tabs integral with said plate and of selected length extend spaced apart from one another longitudinally from an end toward the a center portion of said outer face, each of said pull tabs being bent at an angle toward said inner face forming a pair of interior spikes and an open window on each side of a generally central flat portion exposed for locking engagement with a tool disposed adjacent the outer face of said plate ~~opposite said one face~~.

Claim 6. (Cancel)

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The ~~[[A ]]~~ spiked plate as defined in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 5 wherein said pair of pull tabs extend in a direction toward one another whereby free terminal outer ends associated with the respective tabs face one another.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The [[A]] spiked plate as defined in claim [[6]] 5 wherein said pair of pull tabs extend in a direction away from one another whereby terminal free outer ends associated with the respective tabs face in a direction away from one another.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The [[A]] spiked plate as defined in claim [[6]] 5 including means on each said plate pull tab that projects therefrom in a direction corresponding to that of said spikes and thereby spacing the respective pull tabs a selected distance from the surface of an object impaled by said spikes.

Claim 10. (Cancel)

Claim 11. (Currently amended) [[A]] spiked plate as defined in claim [[10]] 5 wherein said pull tabs and plate are coplanar and said pull tabs project into the window associated therewith.

Claims 12 - 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Cancel)

Please add new claims 24 - 42 as follows:

-Claim 24. (New) The spiked plate of claim 5, including at least elongate rib for reinforcing said plate.--

-Claim 25. (New) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein said outer face is slightly convex and said inner face is slightly concave from end to end.--

-Claim 26 (new) The spiked plate of claim 24, wherein said spiked plate includes a least one elongate rib extending along each side edge of said spiked plate.-

-Claim 27 (new) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein said inner face is slightly concave from side to side and side outer face is convex from side to side.-

-Claim 28. (New) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein said spiked plate includes a least one elongate rib extending along each side edge of said spiked plate, said outer face is slightly convex and said inner face is slightly concave from end to end, and said inner face is slightly concave from side to side and side outer face is convex from side to side.-

-Claim 29 (new) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein a distal end of said pull tab comprises a concave shaped cross section defining a pair of points.-

-Claim 30 (new) The spiked plate of claim 11, wherein said pull tabs are smaller than said window.--

-Claim 31. (New) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein each spike defines a continuous longitudinal edge sharpened to facilitate driving the spike into the end of a log.--

-Claim 32. (New) The spiked plate of claim 5, wherein said end spikes are undulating in

cross-section having a central concave portion sandwiched between a pair of spaced apart outer convex sections.-

-Claim33. (New) A plate for arresting continuation of a split in a log wherein the split appears as a crack in an end face of said log, said plate consisting essentially of:

a pair of oppositely disposed faces defining an outer face and an inner face;

a spaced apart spike projecting from each corner of said inner face, said spikes being grouped in pairs with at least one spike in each of said pairs spaced an equal distance from a centerline of said inner face at each corner as compared to the other spike of said pair, and wherein each one of said spikes in each of said pairs are canted slightly toward each other in opposition to one another; and

at least one plate pull tab integral with said plate and of selected length extending longitudinally from an end toward the a center portion of said outer face, said at least one pull tabs bending inwardly at an angle forming an interior spike and an open window between a generally flat portion exposed for locking engagement with a removal tool.

-Claim 34. (New) The spiked plate of claim 33, including at least elongate rib for reinforcing said plate.--

-Claim35. (New) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein said outer face is slightly convex and said inner face is slightly concave from end to end.--

-Claim36 (new) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein said spiked plate includes a least one elongate rib extending along each side edge of said spiked plate.-

-Claim37 (new) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein said inner face is slightly concave from side to side and side outer face is convex from side to side.-

-Claim38. (New) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein said spiked plate includes a least one

elongate rib extending along each side edge of said spiked plate, said outer face is slightly convex and said inner face is slightly concave from end to end, and said inner face is slightly concave from side to side and side outer face is convex from side to side.-

-Claim39 (new) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein a distal end of said pull tab comprises a concave shaped cross section defining a pair of points.-

-Claim40. (New) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein each spike defines a continuous longitudinal edge sharpened to facilitate driving the spike into the end of a log.--

-Claim41. (New) The spiked plate of claim 33, wherein said end spikes are undulating in cross-section having a central concave portion sandwiched between a pair of spaced apart outer convex sections.-

-Claim42. (New) A plate for arresting continuation of a split in a log wherein the split appears as a crack in an end face of such log, said plate consisting of:

a log including at least one crack appearing in an end face of said log;

a strip of material having a pair of oppositely disposed faces defining an inner face and an outer face;

said distal ends of said strip defining a continuous longitudinal edge having a central concave portion disposed between a pair of spaced apart outer convex sections defining spaced apart distal end spikes;

said distal end spikes bending downward with respect to said inner face;

said strip of material including at least one opening disposed between a central flat portion and said distal end formed by cutting a through a portion of said strip of material forming a tab, said tab bending downward with respect to said inner face defining a spike projecting between said distal end spikes;

said central flat portion defining at least one pull tab disposed on said outer face operably engageable by a tool for removal of said plate from said log.--